



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carson City District – Stillwater Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, Nevada 89701-1448
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

In Reply Refer To:
NVN-85168X
3200/1792

May 22, 2012

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Carson City District, Stillwater Field Office, has completed an environmental assessment (EA) for the *Patua Geothermal Project Phase II Geothermal Unit N-85168X* proposed by Gradient Resources, Inc. The BLM Decision is to implement the Proposed Action (EA page 2-1).

The geothermal project is located just east of Fernley, and approximately 15 miles west of Fallon, Nevada. The proposed project and associated access roads are on lands managed by the BLM and the Bureau of Reclamation. This EA analyzes potential impacts on the natural and human environment that could result from implementation of the geothermal exploration and utilization activities proposed by Gradient. The primary objective of the project is to further evaluate the characteristics of the geothermal resources in the Patua II Project area and develop a geothermal power plant. The proposed activities include:

- Constructing new access roads,
- Upgrading existing access roads,
- Constructing up to 19 well pads,
- Drilling and completing slim wells and/or exploration wells, flow testing exploration wells to determine commercial potential,
- Construction of a new nominal 60 MW net power plant

The EA was made available for a 30-day public review/comment period. The BLM received comments from three (3) State departments. All comments received were reviewed, considered and responded to by the BLM Carson City District Office (CCDO). Additional minor environmental clarification and environmental management practices have been included in the final EA Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Exhibit B Conditions of Approval in response to public review and comments received.

A determination has been made that implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant environmental impacts to the natural and human environment, therefore a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared separately to document that determination, and Decision Record (DR) has been issued providing the rationale for approving The Proposed Action. The final EA, FONSI, and DR are available at:

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field/blm_information/nepa/nepa_archives.html

If you have any questions on the Final EA, FONSI and Decision Record please contact Ed Klimasauskas, Geologist, BLM Stillwater Field Office at: (775) 885-6115.

Sincerely,

Teresa J. Knutson
Manager, Stillwater Field Office